

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application are being submitted to supplement the Response filed on February 7, 2011 in reply to the Office Action dated October 6, 2010 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20100929). In view of the above amendments and the amendments and remarks submitted in the Response filed on February 7, 2011, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

While the period of response the Office Action dated October 6, 2010 expired on February 7, 2011, Applicants note that “[a]n extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 is not necessary when submitting a supplemental reply to an Office action if a complete first reply was timely filed in reply to the Office action.” MPEP §710.02(e). Moreover, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111, subsections (2)(E), Applicants respectfully submit that this supplemental reply is clearly limited to amendments for correcting informalities in the language of the claims.

Status of the Claims

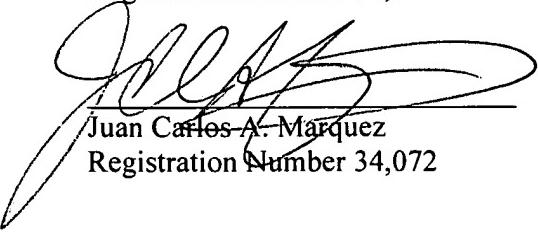
As outlined above, claims 4, 6-8, 18-21, and 27-31 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 39-31 are being amended to improve form. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this amendment. This amendment is merely being submitted to correct informalities in the language of the claims.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully solicited in view of the remarks submitted in the Response filed on February 7, 2011. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 25, 2011

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